

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A structure for mounting an engine for a vehicle comprising:  
a supporting member for supporting the engine on a front side of the engine in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle with a space provided between the front side of the engine and the supporting member; and  
an auxiliary equipment disposed in the space between the front side of the engine and the supporting member, wherein  
the supporting member has a strength against a load applied thereto in ~~[[a]]~~ the longitudinal direction of the vehicle less than that of the auxiliary equipment.
2. (Original) The structure for mounting an engine according to claim 1, further comprising a first bracket which is fixed to the engine at a first point on the front side of the engine and is supported by the supporting member at a second point lower than the first point.
3. (Original) The structure for mounting an engine according to claim 1, wherein the auxiliary equipment comprises a starter motor.
4. (Original) The structure for mounting an engine according to claim 1, wherein the supporting member is formed in a channel shape open frontward.
5. (Original) The structure for mounting an engine according to claim 1, wherein the supporting member is provided with a fragile portion which reduces the strength of the

supporting member against the load to the supporting member in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle.

6. (Original) The structure for mounting an engine according to claim 5, wherein the fragile portion comprises a pair of vertically extending emboss beads formed on inner side faces of the supporting member.

7. (Original) The structure for mounting an engine according to claim 2, further comprising a second bracket for mounting the auxiliary equipment, wherein

the auxiliary equipment has a strength against the load applied thereto in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle less than that of the engine,

the second bracket has a strength against the load applied thereto in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle less than that of the supporting member, and

the first bracket has a strength against the load applied thereto in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle less than that of the second bracket.

8. (Previously presented) The structure for mounting an engine according to claim 1, wherein

the auxiliary equipment overlaps in vertical position with the supporting member.

9. (Previously presented) The structure for mounting an engine according to claim 8, wherein

a gap is provided between the auxiliary equipment and the supporting member.

10. (Previously presented) The structure for mounting an engine according to claim 1, wherein

the supporting member is formed to start deforming before the auxiliary equipment starts deforming when the supporting member and the auxiliary equipment interfere with each other.

11. (Previously presented) The structure for mounting an engine according to claim 10, wherein

the auxiliary equipment is formed to start deforming before the engine starts deforming when the auxiliary equipment and the engine interfere with each other.

12. (Currently amended) A protective mounting structure for an engine of a vehicle comprising:

a supporting member for supporting the engine on a front side of the engine in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle with a space provided between the front side of the engine and the supporting member; and

an auxiliary equipment disposed in the space between the front side of the engine and the supporting member for protection of the engine, wherein

the auxiliary equipment overlaps in vertical position with the supporting member, and wherein

the supporting member has a strength against a load applied thereto in ~~[[a]]~~ the longitudinal direction of the vehicle less than that of the auxiliary equipment.